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Hamburg Laws of 1898, I. Division.—Proclamation concerning the changing of the regulations for the sanitary police control of sailing vessels.

APRIL 18, 1898.

The senate in unison with the Bürgerschaft has decreed and hereby promulgates as law that which follows:

In place of section 14 of the ordinance concerning the sanitary police control of vessels entering a port of Hamburg, of November 29, 1895, the following regulations come into effect:

SEC. 14a. If a vessel has plague on board or has had it on board within the last twelve days, notification must be given by telegraph, after the medical inspection (sec. 6) has been made, to the chief of the medical bureau in Hamburg and to the imperial sanitary bureau.

SEC. 14b. If a vessel has plague on board or if cases of plague have occurred on a vessel within the last twelve days before arriving, it is held to be *infected*, and is subject to the following regulations:

(1) The sick persons found on board are disembarked and conveyed to isolated quarters specially prepared for their reception and treatment, where a separation is to be made of those persons in whose case the existence of plague is established from those patients who are only suspected. They are left there until recovery or the removal of the doubt.

(2) Corpses found on board are to be buried immediately under the requisite precautionary rules.

(3) The remaining persons (passengers and crew) are subjected to further observation as to their state of health, the duration of which is regulated in accordance with the sanitary condition of the vessel and the date of the last occurrence of sickness, but in no case to exceed the space of ten days. For purpose of this observation they are either to be prevented from leaving the vessel, or in so far as their disembarkation is expedient and necessary in the estimation of the port authorities they are to be lodged in isolated quarters on land. The last holds good in particular when the crew leaves the vessel for the purpose of being paid off.

Passengers shown not to have been in contact with plague patients may be released from observation as soon as it is determined by the medical official that symptoms which would cause the appearance of plague to be apprehended do not exist in them. Nevertheless, the port authorities must immediately in such cases inform the proper police authorities at the next destination of the passengers concerning their intended arrival in order that they may be subjected to sanitary police supervision there.

If the observation of the ship's crew takes place on board, their going ashore during the period of observation is only to be allowed, with the consent of the medical official, in so far as the requirements of the ship's service make it unavoidable.

(4) All personal linen, articles of clothing in daily use, and other belongings of the ship's crew and passengers which are deemed by the medical official to have become contaminated with the infection of plague are to be disinfected.

The same holds good with reference to those compartments and portions of the vessel which are to be regarded as contaminated with the infection of plague.

In case of necessity, still wider measures of disinfection may be ordered by the medical official. Sweepings are to be burned up. Articles whose admission is forbidden must not be removed from the vessel. All possible effort must be used to the end that the spread of the disease through rats and mice existing on board is prevented.

(5) Bilge water, which from the situation of affairs must be considered as containing plague germs, is to be disinfected and afterwards, if feasible, pumped out.

(6) Water ballast taken in an infected or suspected port, if it is to be pumped out in the port of destination, is first to be disinfected; if disinfection can not be carried out the discharge of the water ballast must take place on the high sea.

(7) The water carried on board for drinking and other purposes, unless it appears entirely free from suspicion, is to be pumped out after having been disinfected and is to be replaced with water which is free from suspicion.

In all cases care must be taken that excretions from plague patients, suspicious water, and refuse of whatever kind do not reach the harbor or river water without being first disinfected.

SEC. 14c. If cases of plague have occurred on a vessel at the time of departure or on the voyage, but not within the last twelve days before arrival, it is held to be *suspected*. After the medical inspection has been made (sec. 6) the crew is to undergo observation with reference to their state of health if the medical official deems this necessary, but not longer than ten days, reckoned from the hour of the arrival of the vessel. The crew may be prevented from going ashore during the period of observation, unless it takes place for the purpose of paying off or the requirements of the ship's service are

opposed to the detention on board. The passengers are to be allowed to continue their journey, but if the medical official deems their further observation necessary, the port authorities must immediately inform the proper police authorities at the next destination concerning the intended arrival, in order that they may be subjected to the sanitary police supervision there. If the result of the medical inspection gives rise to the suspicion that inmates of the vessel have received in their persons the infection of plague, they may be dealt with, on the order of the medical official, as persons from an infected vessel (sec. 14b, 1 and 3).

As for the rest the rules prescribed in section 14b, Nos. 4-7, hold good.

SEC. 14d. If the vessel has had a death from plague or a case of plague on board neither before departure nor during the voyage nor on arrival it is held to be *clean* even though it comes from a port, arrivals from which have been ordered subjected to the control, and if the result of the medical inspection is satisfactory it is immediately admitted to free pratique, after the measures designated in section 14b, under No. 4, paragraphs 1 and 3, and Nos. 5-7, in so far as the medical official deems them necessary, have been carried out. If the result of the medical inspection gives rise to the suspicion that inmates of the vessel have received in their persons the infection of plague, or if the voyage of the vessel since leaving a port of the kind designated above has lasted less than ten days, the passengers and crew may be subjected, on the order of the medical official, to a further sanitary police supervision in accordance with the method specified in section 14c, until the completion of the period of ten days reckoned from the day of the departure of the vessel.

SEC. 14e. Against very thickly peopled vessels, namely such as carry emigrants or returning emigrants, and likewise against vessels which present especially unfavorable sanitary conditions, wider measures, extending beyond the limits of sections 14b-14d, may be taken by the port authorities.

SEC. 14f. The admission and the forwarding of wares and articles of industry from the vessels specified in sections 14b-14e are subject to restriction only in so far as special regulations have been adopted on the part of the competent government authorities.

Nevertheless, articles which in the opinion of the medical official are to be regarded as contaminated with the infection of plague are to be disinfected before being admitted or forwarded.

SEC. 14g. If a vessel in the cases described in sections 14b-14e is not willing to submit to the regulations imposed it is free to go to sea again. It can have permission, however, with the application of the necessary precautionary measures (isolation of the vessel, crew and passengers, preventing the pumping out of the bilge water before it has been disinfected, replacing of the water supply found on board with good drinking water and other water, and the like) to discharge its cargo and to land the passengers who are on board provided the latter submit to the rules adopted by the port authorities.

Enacted at the sitting of the Senate, Hamburg, April 18, 1898.

Proclamation concerning the administration of the sanitary police control of seagoing vessels.

In accordance with section 17 of the ordinance of November 29, 1895, concerning the sanitary police control of seagoing vessels entering a port of Hamburg, the following is hereby prescribed:

SECTION 1. The medical inspection of seagoing vessels, which come from the North Sea bound for Hamburg and are subject to the sanitary police control in accordance with section 1 of the ordinance of November 29, 1895, takes place in Cuxhaven. The inspection is made in the summer months not before 6 o'clock in the morning and in the winter months not before 7 o'clock; at an earlier hour only exceptionally on a well grounded application being made in advance by the shipmaster or the shipping company. The inspection must not be attempted during the nighttime.

SEC. 2. The sanitary police control of seagoing vessels in Hamburg and in Cuxhaven is placed under the port physician. The inspection in Cuxhaven is made through an assistant physician commissioned as representative of the port physician. Complaints about the execution of the medical control by the assistant physician are to be directed to the port physician at Hamburg.

SEC. 3. The measures prescribed in sections 7-13 of the ordinance of November 29, 1895, and likewise those prescribed in the proclamation of April 18, 1898, concerning the changing of the regulations for the sanitary police control of seagoing vessels, will be carried out in Cuxhaven, unless the port physician or his assistant physician, on the application of the master to that effect, permits it to be taken in hand after the arrival of the vessel in Hamburg.

There is always to be performed in Cuxhaven, however:

(1) The disembarkation of persons sick with cholera and persons suspected of cholera

(sec. 7, No. 1, of the ordinance of November 29, 1895), and of yellow fever patients (sec. 13 of the same).

(2) The burial of dead bodies from cholera-infected vessels and yellow-fever vessels (sec. 7, No. 2, and sec. 13, paragraph 3 of the ordinance of November 29, 1895).

(3) The measures which are prescribed in sections 14a-14c of the proclamation of April 18, 1898, for vessels declared infected or suspected on account of plague, and likewise the disinfections prescribed in section 14d of the same for clean vessels.

(4) The disinfections designated in section 7, Nos. 4 to 7, and the renewal of drinking water which may be required, in so far as infected vessels are concerned or in so far as the conditions assumed in section 13, paragraph 2 of the ordinance of November 29, 1895, or in sections 4 and 5 of the proclamation of April 18, 1898, with reference to the disinfection of seagoing vessels subject to a sanitary police control, are to be dealt with.

SEC. 4. The measures reserved in section 10 of the ordinance of November 29, 1895, and in section 14e of the proclamation of April 18, 1898, for very thickly peopled vessels and for vessels presenting especially unfavorable sanitary conditions are to be appointed in the individual case by the port physician.

SEC. 5. If the measures prescribed in sections 7 to 13 of the ordinance of November 29, 1895, and in sections 14d-14g of the proclamation of April 28, 1898, are not carried out in Cuxhaven or only in part there, the master must take care to observe all the rules of action ordered by the inspecting physician for the further journey, which are to be imparted to him in writing.

Compartments, tanks, passenger baggage and other articles which are not to be disinfected until the arrival of the vessel in Hamburg may be placed under lock and key.

SEC. 6. Infected vessels (secs. 7 and 13 of the ordinance of November 29, 1895) which have still been allowed to continue their journey to Hamburg before the expiration of 5 days from their arrival in Cuxhaven, as well as such vessels held to be clean or suspected under the control as have been less than 5 days on the way, or in case they come from a plague-infected port less than 10 days, must fly the yellow flag at the foremast, also on the trip to Hamburg, and are not allowed to haul down the flag and open intercourse with others until the assent of the port physician has been given.

SEC. 7. To vessels subject to the control which sail from the Baltic Sea through the Kaiser Wilhelm Canal to a Hamburg port the measures prescribed in sections 7-13 of the ordinance of November 29, 1895, and in the proclamation of April 18, 1898, are applicable at Hamburg or Cuxhaven only in so far as they have not already been fulfilled, according to evidence presented, before entrance into the canal, through the sanitary police control at the royal Prussian quarantine establishment at Bossbrok. Those vessels bound for a Hamburg port which have had further cases of cholera, yellow fever, or plague on board after the control at Bossbrok are subject to an additional control at Hamburg or Cuxhaven, in accordance with section 15 of the ordinance of November 29, 1895.

If it has been imposed upon a vessel bound for a Hamburg port, through the sanitary police control at Bossbrok, to fly the yellow flag at the foremast during the trip through the Kaiser Wilhelm Canal, the vessel must also fly the flag on the Elbe until the port of destination is reached. In the port of destination the vessel is not allowed to haul down the flag and open intercourse with others until the assent of the port physician or his representative has been given.

SEC. 8. Violations of these regulations, provided a severer punishment is not incurred in accordance with the general penal laws, are punished in accordance with section 21 of the ordinance of November 29, 1895, concerning the sanitary police control of seagoing vessels, by a fine not to exceed 100 marks, in place of which, in case of inability to pay, a corresponding imprisonment is imposed.

Enacted at the sitting of the senate, Hamburg, September 30, 1898.

Report from Hamburg.

HAMBURG, GERMANY, June 20, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor to report for the week ended June 16, 1900:

The steamship *Graf Waldersee*, of the Hamburg-American Line, sailed Sunday, June 10, carrying 762 steerage passengers. The express steamer *Fürst Bismarck*, also of the Hamburg-American Line, sailed June 14, carrying 540 steerage passengers. Bills of health were issued during the week to 6 vessels, of which 5 carried cargo.

Respectfully,

A. C. SMITH,

Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.